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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Rev. Madison T. Shockley II, of Congregational Church of Christian Fellowship, United Church of Christ, Los Angeles, CA, offered the following prayer:

Good morning, Senators. Please join me in a word of prayer.

Dear God of all, though You look upon Your creation and see our world without the borders we draw or the barriers we erect, hear the cry of Your people in this corner of Your great universe. We implore You on behalf of the men and women who govern these United States of America as Senators to grant to them wisdom, justice, mercy, and love in quantities not common to humankind. For, indeed, the task they share and the burden they bear is not a common one. Charged as they are to lead a Nation which stands out among all the nations of the world, the very fate of this planet is altered by what they do.

Mighty and ever loving God, You have been so gracious to us, we cannot begin to express our gratitude for the rich resources of fertile land, refreshing rivers, and majestic forests with which You have blessed this Nation. All this is magnified by the fact that no merit of ours has earned these blessings—no merit. For who can claim merit in the presence of Your divine goodness? Who can claim merit before Your sublime righteousness? And so with these awesome blessings come great responsibility. For You have instructed us that "From the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded". —Luke 12:48.

Sovereign Spirit, help the Senators hear Your demand upon a people of freedom to seek liberation for all; a people of wealth to seek prosperity for everyone; a people of justice to seek

righteousness for all. May all gathered here execute their office with mercy, love, and compassion. May this august assembly seek to share the blessings of this Nation with all of its people and even with those who do not share this badge of our citizenship but who still are our brothers and sisters whom You have commanded us to love and who share in that larger circle of the whole human family of which You are the one Divine Parent.

Let us all say—amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, this morning there will be an immediate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the so-called Vacancies Act. Following that vote, the Senate will resume consideration of the FAA authorization bill, with an almost immediate vote on or in relation to the Inhofe amendment regarding emergency license removal. Following that vote, the Senate will continue consideration of the FAA bill with amendments being offered and debated throughout today's session. Therefore, Members should expect rollcall votes during the day and into the evening in relation to the FAA bill or any other legislative or executive items cleared for action.

Finally, the leader would like to notify all Members that there will be rollcall votes during Friday's session of the Senate.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GREGG). The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Thank you, Mr. President.

REV. MADISON T. SHOCKLEY II

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am so pleased and proud to welcome Rev. Madison Shockley to the Senate today where he has just delivered the opening prayer. Reverend Shockley is pastor of the Congregational Church of Christian Fellowship, United Church of Christ in Los Angeles, CA.

Mr. President, I had the great pleasure of attending services at his church a few weeks ago. On that particular day, we were reeling from a number of things both at home and abroad. His words were so fitting and healing. I was honored to be sitting in his congregation.

Reverend Shockley has been a civil rights and human rights leader in Los Angeles for more than a decade. His accomplishments, his leadership and his compassion make him one of California's most respected members of the clergy.

Following the 1992 civil unrest in Los Angeles, Reverend Shockley helped establish a 3-year program of "community conversation," bringing together people from all racial and ethnic backgrounds, as well as leaders from across this country, to talk about the causes of unrest and tension and to bring peace and love to a community that was torn by hate and fear.

Most recently, Pastor Shockley has authored a series of critically acclaimed articles in the Los Angeles Times covering a broad range of important social topics. I congratulate and I thank Reverend Shockley for coming all the way from California on a redeye flight, no less, which is not easy to do, and to share his prayers with us today. Our country so needs the healing message that he brings us every day.

I yield the floor.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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